



BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MICHAEL JASSO

DIRECTOR

69 W. Washington St., Suite 2900 • Chicago, Illinois 60602-3171 • (312) 603-1000

TONI PRECKWINKLE

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March 12, 2014

Honorable Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners
and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 North Clark Street, Room 537
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funding

Dear Madam President and Cook County Commissioners:

The Bureau of Economic Development respectfully requests acceptance of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding of \$13.9 million related to the severe storms and flooding that occurred during the period of April 16 to May 5, 2013.

In accordance with HUD requirements, the Cook County Department of Planning and Development consulted with the Cook County Departments of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Environmental Control, and Transportation and Highways, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the Illinois and Federal Emergency Management Agencies (IEMA and FEMA, respectively), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as municipal and township leaders to discuss areas that were most affected by the 2013 disaster and strategic projects that need to be done.

The Department of Planning & Development (DPD) desires to fund projects that strategically assist with the recovery efforts and support other investments which are occurring in the area. To that end, DPD is conducting a needs assessment to gain a more complete understanding of the impacts and unmet need related to this flooding. Based upon our discussions and review of available data to date, the initial budget below proposes that the CDBG-DR funding will support strategic buy outs of properties that experience recurring flooding; rehabilitation and mold remediation of homes and/or businesses that were severely impacted; infrastructure improvements to mitigate future flooding; a tenant based rental program to help residents who are/were displaced by the disaster to afford new rental homes, which may have increased rents due to increased demand for housing in the area; the construction of some replacement housing for special needs populations and seniors, where demand is high; and planning efforts to reduce the likelihood of future flooding.

Strategic Acquisition Program	\$4,500,000
Rehabilitation/ Remediation	\$2,205,000
Infrastructure	\$2,000,000
Replacement Housing	\$2,500,000
Tenant Based Rental Program	\$1,000,000
Planning	\$1,000,000
Administration	\$695,000
TOTAL	\$13,900,000

DPD is continuing with the needs assessment and has a three year period to fully obligate the grant funding. The Board will be kept informed as the grant progresses and additional information becomes available.

The Bureau intends to introduce this item at the Cook County Board meeting scheduled for March 12, 2014, on your behalf. We respectfully request approval for the acceptance of this grant and that the Bureau Chief of Economic Development or his/her designee be authorized to execute on behalf of the County of Cook any and all documents necessary to further the program approval herein including any modifications thereto. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (312) 603-1033.

Sincerely,



Michael Jasso, Director
 Department of Planning and Development
 Bureau of Economic Development

cc: Kimberly Fox, Chief of Staff
 Herman Brewer, Bureau Chief – Economic Development
 Patrick Carey, Special Assistant to the President
 Matt Deleon, Secretary to the Board
 Jane Hornstein, Deputy Director
 Dominic Tocci, Deputy Director